

U.S. Application No. 10/016,719 – Filed: December 10, 2001  
Amendment Dated: August 7, 2003  
Reply to Office Action Dated: April 24, 2003

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~EP-B1-0-024-944 US Patent No. 4,326,643 (in the name of Bayne, et al; issued April 27, 1982)~~ discloses such a device for vertical lifting and lowering of a stack of flat objects (magnetic cards) in a card delivery machine, in which a platform or container carrying the stack can be moved by a spindle drive having a threaded spindle and a cylinder shaft in the vertical lifting direction and the platform during the lifting movement is guided by the cylinder shaft arranged axiparallel to the threaded spindle and at a spacing from it and secured against horizontal pivoting. The platform is mounted on the threaded spindle by a spindle nut and on the cylinder shaft by a bearing bush.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The following description according to Figures 1 to 5 refers to a preferred variant of the device according to the invention for balancing of a threaded spindle eccentricity in order to avoid blocking or jamming of a spindle drive [[I]] 1 having several spindles, which is provided for lifting movement of a platform 2 carrying a sheet stack S of a sheet feed magazine in an ordinary sheet processing machine (not shown), for example, a copier. Individual sheets can be automatically removed in succession from the sheet stack lying or positioned on the platform by an ordinary sheet removal/transport unit of the copier (not shown) and fed to one or more sheet processing stations of the copier.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

It is self-evident to one skilled in the art active in this field that the device according to the invention can also be used in other machines, for example, in delivery or feed devices for cards or other stackable objects, as well as in printers or sheet ~~seiling~~ machines.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The device according to the invention having a spindle drive 1, depicted in Figure 1 in a three-dimensional schematic view through an opening of a machine housing 5, has an upper 51 and a lower 52 essentially rectangular bearing plate 2 within the machine housing 5 with four spindles mounted between them in axiparallel, vertical alignment [[V]] on four corner points of the bearing plates 51;52 in the form of threaded spindles G1; G2; G3; G4. The upper bearing plate 51 has a recess for access to the top of sheet stack S by band and/or by sheet removal/transport unit, so that only an edge region of the bearing plate remains in the form of a U.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The platform 2 is mounted on corresponding threaded spindle G1; G2; G3; G4 by four bearing devices L1; L2; L3; L4 arranged on it, which according to Figure 2 have different radial bearing clearance F1; F2 in the horizontal directions X, Y.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the preferred variant of the invention according to Figures 1 and 2 a first bearing device L1 of the platform is arranged essentially radially and free of clearance on a first spindle G1, a second bearing device L2 according to Figures 1 to 4a has a radial bearing clearance F1 on both sides of the second spindle G2 in direction Y, which is prescribed to run radially linear back-and-forth from the first spindle G1 and the third and additional bearing devices L3, L4 according to Figures 1, 2, 4b and 4c are arranged with bearing clearance F2 effective all the way around (in directions X[[;]] and Y) the corresponding third and additional spindles G3, G4. During the lifting movement of platform 2 during a spindle eccentricity of threaded spindles G1-G4, a horizontal movement of platform 2 is obtained in direction X or across the transport direction T of sheet S (see Figure 2), which is determined by the spindle eccentricity of the threaded spindle G1 and G2 and a horizontal movement in direction Y or along the transport direction T, which is only determined by the spindle eccentricity from threaded spindle G1.